

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00125 081020Z

14
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /147 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1919
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UNCLAS SEOUL 0125

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, KS
SUBJ: REMARKS ON ROK FOREIGN POLICY BY AMBASSADOR
DESIGNATE HAHM PYONG-CHUN

SUMMARY: HAHM PYONG-CHUN, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO THE U.S., AT PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 7 STRESSED IMPORTANCE STRENGTHENING US-ROK COOPERATION. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE FORESAW NO RAPID WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES, REDUCTION IN FUTURE IS "UNAVOIDABLE." END SUMMARY.

1. AT MEETING WITH PRESS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR U.S., TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 19, HAHM IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT HIS MAJOR EMPHASIS AS AMBASSADOR WILL BE ON STRENGTHENING US-ROK COOPERATION IN ORDER TO REINFORCE THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND SECURE "GENUINE PEACE" IN KOREA. HE SAID ROK SHOULD MAINTAIN SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AS A CHECK ON BIG POWERS--CHINA, USSR, AND JAPAN.

2. HAHM REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED PLAN TO STRENGTHEN US-ROK RELATIONS IN SPITE OF U.S.
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 00125 081020Z

POLICY OF DISENGAGEMENT FROM ASIA. HE PLANS

TO EMPHASIZE U.S. COMMITMENTS TO ROK UNDER
MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND ROK ECONOMIC
EFFORTS TO INDUCE U.S. CAPITAL AND TO
PROMOTE TRADE.

3. HAHM EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE U.S. GOAL IN
NORTHEAST ASIA IS TO ASSURE REGIONAL
STABILITY. HE SAID THAT HE THINKS U.S.
DOMESTIC CONDITIONS MAKE FUTURE REDUCTION OF
U.S. GROUND FORCES "UNAVOIDABLE" BUT THAT HE SEES
NO RAPID REDUCTION OR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S.
FORCES FROM ROK, SINCE U.S. WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN
BALANCE OF POWER.

4. ON SUBJECT OF SOUTH-NORTH RELATIONS, HAHM SAID
THAT IF ROK WERE TO BECOME A PARTY TO THE
ARMISTICE AGREEMENT IT WOULD INVOLVE "COMPLICATED
LEGAL PROBLEMS." THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR KOREAN
PEOPLE WOULD BE NORTH KOREAN ACCEPTANCE OF PEACEFUL
COEXISTENCE. HAHM W*S ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT
A U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH NORTH KOREA WILL NOT DEVELOP.

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